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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SIL-01 LAB-02 DRC-01

EB-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /036 W
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P R 281415Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8700
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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DEPT FOR NEA LABOR ADVISER

STOCKHOLM FOR LABAT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, ELAB, LE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OF UNITED AUTO WORKERS (UAW) TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 136550 AND SEARING/MATTSON LETTER

1. LEBANESE AFFILIATES OF IMF ARE ELEVATOR AND AIR CONDITIONING WORKERS UNION (EACWU) AND MACHINISTS UNION (MU) EACH WITH ABOUT THOUSAND MEMBERS BUT GROWING IN DYNAMIC INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. (MECHANICS UNION OF NORTH LEBANON FEDERATION NO RPT NO LONGER ACTIVE IN IMF SINCE DEATH OF PRESIDENT NAIM KREIDI, WHOSE POST REMAINS UNFILLED.)

2. EACWU WILL TAKE LEAD IN ARRANGING VISIT PROGRAM. PRINCIPALS WILL BE PRESIDENT ANTOINE JAWAL, WHO VISITED US--INCLUDING DETROIT--IN 1973 AND IS STRONGLY PRO-US, AND ANTOINE FRANGIEH, WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH AND WILL ACT AS INTER-PRETER DURING VISIT. FRANGIEH IS DISTANT RELATIVE OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE, FRIENDLY, AND SELF-STYLED CONSERVATIVE IN LEBANESE POLITICAL CONTEXT. BOTH ARE CHRISTIAN.

3. PRESIDENT ABDELKARIM SEIF EDDINE, SUNNI MOSLEM BEST
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DESCRIBED AS MODERATE ARAB NATIONALIST, WILL BE KEY FIGURE

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FROM MU.

4. SINCE BOTH UNIONS ARE MEMBERS OF UNITED UNIONS FEDERATION, LATTER'S PRESIDENT, TOUFIC ABOU KHALIL (MARONITE), WILL ALSO PLAY PROMINENT ROLE. DURING RECENT MONTHS, HE HAS EMERGED AS AGGRESSIVE LEADER WHO AIMS TO GO HIGHER. ORIGINALLY FROM TEXTILE WORKERS UNION, HE IS FRIENDLY AND ONCE VISITED US.

5. EACWU VICE PRESIDENT ANTOINE ZOGHBY AND MU VICE PRESIDENT BOUTROS HAKIM ATTENDING IMF MEETING AT STOCKHOLM. ZOGHBY PLANS TO ASK WOODCOCK/REBHAN ABOUT SPECIFIC DESIRES RE VISIT PROGRAM AND TO TELEX REPLY TO SPEED UP PREPARATIONS (HAKIM, REGARDED AS SOMEWHAT LEFTIST MOSLEM, IS ALONG FOR SAKE OF BALANCE).

6. HAVE ADVISED EACWU/MU HOSTS OF WOODCOCK INTEREST IN MEETING PRINCIPAL CONFEDERATION LEADERS (AS WELL AS POLITICAL LEADERS) AND HAVE OFFERED TO HOST SMALL RECEPTION TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL GROUND FOR VISITORS TO MEET BOTH "INS" AND "OUTS" AMONG TOP LABOR LEADERSHIP BUT HOSTS AWAIT RESPONE FROM STOCKHOLM AND RETURN OF LABOR LEADERS FROM GENEVA BEFORE FLESHING OUT VISIT PROGRAM.

7. WHILE REGRETTING BREVITY OF WOODCOCK STOPOVER, HOSTS ARE IMMENSELY PLEASED TO RECEIVE AMERICAN LABOR LEADER OF HIS STATURE AND GRATIFIED THAT LEBANON IS INITIAL STOP ON HIS ME TRIP.

DECON 6/28/75.
GODLEY

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